Psychology 248: Psychology of Learning and Memory

Spring, 2011

Gregg Hall, Room 100
Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00am – 12:20pm

	Office and office hours:
Instructor: Professor Aaron Benjamin (ASBENJAM@ILLINOIS.EDU)	Psychology 827 (T,Th 12:30-1:00)
Teaching Assistant: Jonathan Tullis (JTULLIS2@ILLINOIS.EDU)	Psychology 832 (M W 1:00-2:00)

Course overview

In this course, you will learn about the psychological study of learning and memory.

Readings

There is no textbook for the course. All of the readings are available on the Compass website (COMPASS.ILLINOIS.EDU). Read the assigned materials prior to the lecture on which they are to be discussed.

Grading

Grading will be based entirely on your performance on three exams. Four exams will be administered, and **your grade will be based on the best three scores**. The first three exams will not be cumulative, but the final will. Each exam counts equally (including the final). All exams will be multiple-choice format. You are not allowed to cheat. If you do choose to cheat, be prepared to be prosecuted to the maximal extent allowed by the university.

Rules. (1) **No makeup exams will be given.** If you miss an exam, your grade will be based on the other three scores.
(2) If you arrive at an exam after the first exam has been turned in, you will not be allowed to take the exam.
(3) You need to bring a valid University ID to take the exam, and you need to turn in the question sheet; otherwise, you will be given a 0 on the exam.

Any material presented in the lecture or in the readings is eligible to be tested. Do not ask me what will or won't be on the exam. It will be on the exam.

How grades will be calculated. Each of your test scores will be converted to a standard score based on the mean performance of the class and the standard deviation. The formula for this calculation is:

$$\text{Your standardized score} = 100 \times \frac{(Your\ raw\ score\ - Class\ mean)}{Class\ standard\ deviation} + 1000$$

Your grade for that exam is determined by the following curve:

Standard score grading

Standard score over 1100	→ A
Standard score between 1000 and 1100	→ B
Standard score between 900 and 1000	→ C
Standard score between 800 and 900	→ D
Standard score below 800	→ F

Your course grade will be based on the average of your three highest test scores.

Attendance

Attendance is not required, but I recommend it highly. The lectures will cover material that is not in the readings, and you will not be able to get all of the lecture information directly from the Powerpoint slides.

Extra credit

You may elect to participate in psychological research run in the Department of Psychology in order to earn up to 30 points of extra credit. You can do up to three hours of experiments; each hour is worth 10 points on your final grade. Information about how to participate in experiments is available at: HTTP://WWW.PSYCH.ILLINOIS.EDU/SUBJECT_POOL/SUBJECT_POOL.PHP. If you would not like to participate in experiments but would like to earn extra credit, you can write a final paper for the course on a topic related to the material covered in the class. You must meet with Professor Benjamin and have a topic approved by March 1 in order to do so.

Lecture date	**Topic and readings to be discussed**	**Lecture date**	**Topic and readings to be discussed**
Tuesday, Jan. 17	Introduction and overview	Thursday, Jan. 19	Research on learning and memory
Jan. 24	Classical conditioning **Anderson, Ch. 2 (ignore section on *Neural Realization*, p. 72-75)**	Jan. 26	Classical conditioning
Jan. 31	Operant conditioning **Anderson, Ch. 3**	Feb. 2	Transient forms of memory **Anderson, Ch. 5 (just p. 152-159)** **Baddeley et al., Ch. 2 (ignore *Competing Theories*, p. 31-33)**
Feb. 7	Working memory	Feb. 9	No class
Feb. 14	Review for Exam 1	Feb. 16	**EXAM 1**
Feb. 21	Encoding into long-term memory	Feb. 23	Distribution of learning **Zechmeister and Nyberg, Ch. 9**
Feb. 28	Production from memory **Zechmeister and Nyberg, Ch. 14**	Mar. 1	Memory judgments
Mar. 6	Forgetting **Neath and Surprenant, Ch. 6** **Baddeley et al., Ch. 9**	Mar. 8	Adaptive forgetting **Baddeley et al., Ch. 10**
Mar. 13	Review for Exam #2	Mar. 15	**EXAM 2**
Mar. 20	Spring break	Mar. 22	Spring break
Mar. 27	Memory errors	Mar. 29	No class

Lecture date	**Topic and readings to be discussed**	**Lecture date**	**Topic and readings to be discussed**
Tuesday Apr. 3	Amnesia and memory **Baddeley et al., Ch. 11**	Thursday Apr. 5	Eyewitness memory **Baddeley et al., Ch. 14**
Apr. 10	Unconscious learning and memory	Apr. 12	Aging and memory
Apr. 17	Metamemory	Apr. 19	Autobiographical memory **Radvansky, Ch. 11**
Apr. 24	Review for Exam 3	Apr. 26	**EXAM 3**
May 1	Review for final exam	**Monday, May 7 1:30pm**	**FINAL EXAM**